

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval For Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Identification of Agency and Contracting Activity:** Acquisition Services, Fredrick MD, on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Human Resources Administration (HRA), Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM)
2. **Nature and/or Description of Action:** The Department of Veterans Affairs proposes to procure a 12-month subscription for Federal Human Resources (FHR) Navigator from Economic Systems Inc., Fairview Park DR Suite 700, Falls Church, VA 22042. The proposed contract action is for 12 month FHR subscription, for which the Government intends to solicit and negotiate on a brand name product.
3. **Description of Supplies or Services Required to meet Agency Need (including the estimated value):** The Federal Human Resources Navigator is a web-based retirement calculator that allows users to develop and update retirement calculations and documents. FHR allows benefits professionals to provide retiring employees a preliminary estimate of their Federal retirement annuity based on information they provide and data that is downloaded for external databases such as the national Finance Center's Personnel/Payroll System.

| Retirement Calculator | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | Product Name | Product Description | Period | Unit Price | Line Item Total |
| | Retirement Calculator | Installation & Implementation of a web based retirement calculator | 12/1/2012-12/1/2013 | \$8,685.00 | \$8,685.00 |
| | | Training & Technical support for web based retirement calculator and SCD calculator | | | |
| | | 25% Discount | | \$2,171.25 | |
| | TOTAL | | | \$6,513.75 | |

4. **Identify Statutory Authority Permitting other than full and open competition:**
The statutory exception permitting other than full and open competition for this acquisition is 41USC 253(c) (5), by FAR 6.302-1 (c) "Application for brand name Descriptions."
5. **Demonstration that the proposed contractor's unique qualifications or the nature of the acquisition requires use of the authority cited:** The intended acquisition will be limited

- a. Name and address of the proposed contractor:

Economic Systems Inc.
3141 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 700
Falls Church, VA 22042
703-738-0528

- b. FHR Navigator web based features automate the retirement calculation process, by leveraging real time up to date information provided by retiree and data collected from external validated data sources. This tool will help the COHRS Employee Benefits team to provide more accurate, timely retirement annuity estimate to retiring employees thereby improving customer service. The FHR Navigator product is currently in use at other federal agency to include, Department of Agriculture, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Labor, Department of Homeland Security and other. The FHR Navigator was the only product of all products evaluated as a part of the market research, that meet majority of the requirements to this contract action.
- c. OHRM COHRS Employee Benefits team is very familiar with the FHR Navigator product base on the extensive use of the prior version of this product. If the contract is awarded to another firm with an unfamiliar tool, the learning curve to the new product would negatively impact their delivery of customer service to the retirement eligible VA employees. The COHRS Benefits team members would have to be trained on the new software which will slow down their productivity and negatively impact their improved customer service survey score of 4.1 out of 5, which is an improvement from its original score of 3.4. Also many of the other tools evaluated require training that would inevitably increase cost of ownership and adoption.

6. **A description of efforts made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as is practicable, including whether a notice was or will be publicized as required by Subpart 5.2 and, if not, which exception under 5.202 applies:** Market research was conducted leveraging the VetBiz.gov database and General Services Administration's Schedule 738x – Human Resource & EEO Service. The market research yielded 6 vendors that offered similar products and services. Of all vendors evaluated, the FHR Navigator by EconSys Inc. meets the primary requirements for the acquisition and offered the best value overall. Efforts were made to solicit Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) and other small businesses for this procurement. Based on the results of the market research and the brand name of the product, no other company was able to provide a web based calculator that met the requirements of the COHRS Benefits team.
7. **A determination by the contracting officer that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable:** No award will be made until the Contracting Officer determines the price to the Government to be fair and reasonable. This determination will be based on the vendor's proposed price compared to the IGCE, as well as appropriate price analysis techniques.

8. **Description of the market research conducted (see FAR Part 10) and the results of a statement of the reasons market research was not conducted:**
Market research was conducted to include a review of literature published by the General Services Administration's Human Resources & EEO Services Schedule – 738-X. The selected firm, Economic Systems Inc., has been determined to be an approved holder of GSA Schedule 738-X, (Contract # GS-02F0092T), and successfully providing similar services to various other Federal Agencies and has received positive performance feedback. Based on assessment of the firm's capabilities, Economic Systems Inc. is found to be the only company that can meet the Government's requirements for this contracting action.
9. **Any Other facts supporting the use of other than full and open competition:**
None.
10. **Listing of Sources Expressing Interest:** One vendor has been identified in the market research for this acquisition, Economic Systems Inc.
11. **Statement of Actions, if any, the agency may take to remove or overcome any barriers to competition before any subsequent acquisition for the required supplies or services:** None.
12. **Requirements Certification:** I certify the technical requirement outlined in this justification is a bonafide need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Jason Hill
Technical Representative

2/6/2013
Date

13. **Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304:**

Contracting Officer's Certification: I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.




Susan Wellen
Contracting Officer


Feb 8, 2013
Date

Technical Certification: I have reviewed this justification and find it legally sufficient to support other than full and open competition under Public Law (PL) 109-461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006, which is codified at 38 U.S.C. §§ 8127 and 8128 and, specifically, VAAR 819.7007 (Dec 2009) which allows for a sole source acquisition to a small business).


Contracting Officer's Representative


Date

Approval: As the Contracting Activity Competition Advocate, and based on the foregoing justification, I hereby approve the foregoing justification for other than full and open competition under Public Law (PL) 109-461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006, which is codified at 38 U.S.C. §§ 8127 and 8128 and, specifically, VAAR 819.7007 (Dec 2009) which allows for a sole source acquisition to a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.


Susan Wellen
Contracting Officer

Date